



Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

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Serving the cities of Bellmead, Beverly Hills, Bruceville-Eddy, Crawford, Gholson, Golida, Hallsburg, Hewitt, Lacy Lakeview, Leroy, Lorena, Mart, McGregor, Moody, Riesel, Robinson, Ross, Waco, West, Woodway, and all areas of McLennan County.

Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

RESCISSION OF

“MODIFIED ORDER BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS”

(which was issued on July 24, 2020)

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020, the Local Health Authority for the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District issued an order (the “July 21, 2020 Order”) imposing certain control measures on all public and private schools in McLennan County, offering instruction to students in any and all grades, pre-kindergarten through grade 12; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2020, the Local Health Authority modified its July 21, 2020 Order to ensure consistency with the Executive Orders of Governor Greg Abbott (the “July 24, 2020 Order”); and

WHEREAS, both the July 21, 2020 Order and the July 24, 2020 Order (hereafter referred to collectively as “Orders”) were issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as data indicates that if schools open for on-campus instruction prior to September 8, 2020, multiple students and staff will arrive at the campus already infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a letter in response to a question from the Mayor of Stephenville, Texas, in which he opined that a Local Health Authority does not have the authority to close schools on a purely preventative basis; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the correctness of the opinion of the Attorney General, a pandemic is not the time to enter into disputes with the State of Texas or other local governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, several school districts in McLennan County have made the decision to delay the start of school or in person instruction until after September 7, 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Local Health Authority rescinds its Orders.

This order is issued under my authority as the Local Health Authority of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District on this the 28th day of July 2020.

Dr. E. Farley Verner, M.D.

Local Health Authority

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